Amending of Aricles of Association for some Former FERA Companies

1730. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the former FERA companies like Colgate, Palmolive, Phillips India Limited, etc., amended their articles of association at the time of dilution of foreign equity, so as to appoint managers including non-retiring Directors on the Boards of respective companies;

(b) if so, what are the names of such companies; and

(c) whether this has become possible because of certain loopholes in the Companies Act, 1956?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (c) The Companies Act, 1956 contains provisions for amendment of articles of association by companies. These provisions apply to all companies including FERA companies.

The time and effort involved in going into the amendments of articles of association of all FERA companies which have diluted their equity from time to time may not be commensurate with the objective likely to be achieved.

Development of industrially backward areas

1781. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee was appointed last year to suggest measures for developing industrially backward areas in the country;

(b) whether the committee had submitted its report, if so, what are its main recommendations; and

(c) what steps, Government taken on the basis of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee is expected to submit its report by the end of December, 1986.

(c) Does not arise.

Industrial Pact with USSR

1732. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the terms and conditions of the Industrial Pact which was signed between India and USSR in May, 1986;

(b) whether the question of exchange of Industrial Technology figured as one of the major items in the Agreement; and

(c) what is the total period for which the Agreement is intended to be in force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI K. K. TEWARI): (a) No industrial pact has been signed in May, 1986 by Government of India with the U.S.S.R.?

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Prices and Quality of Paper

1733. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations from leading publishers in the country regarding increase in prices of paper and deterioration in its quality;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to allow import of paper and printing equipment without customs duty to help the publishing industry; and